

REPORTERS' COMPOSITE CHRISTMAS STORY.

WORKING LIFE ON A DAILY PAPER AS PORTRAYED BY THE WORKERS—CHRISTMAS YARN BY THE FORCE.

Silas Enfield, Believing in the Power of the Press, Goes to a Newspaper Office to Ask for Help in Seeking His Child, Whose Name He did not Know and Whom He had Never Seen—A Mystery Dramatically Solved.

If there are any precious and reposeful moments in the lives of the city force of an afternoon newspaper, they follow close upon 3 o'clock, when the last copy is "taken" and the fate of the day is in the hands of the foreman of the composing room and the "make-up." The police reporter has won his last confession from the day's criminal, and has wired in from the station house that "all's safe," the men on convention assignments have accurately anticipated the speeches and resolutions up to 5 o'clock; the "Chicago close" on markets is in; the society reporter, who was shocked at noon to learn that "we want nothing but silence out of you, and mighty little of that," has gone home; the artist has just had time to get in a view of the firemen saving a child from a burning building; the coroner has been furnished with a "proof" of his 4:30 o'clock verdict on the wreck; a blaring head for a pretty little "coop" has been written; all that talented legs and a telephone can do has been done. It's the lull after the scurrying. A half day has been crowded into an hour. The reporter is deliciously tired.

At such an hour, a few days before Christmas, the city editor, with abated energies, meditated on the shortcomings and excellencies of the day's work. Then the day expanded into the year. The panorama spread out before him. With such haste as the last hour had seen the dead had been buried, the living had been considered—good and bad, the woe, joy, amusements and despairs of the world, all necessary to a harmonious and captivating daily paper, had been to the reporter as mere sticks of timber with which a man builds his house. Does this kind of a life make cynical, Philistine of us? Do we lose sympathy and assume a show of it only when sorrows (capable of being worked into a good story) are revealed to us? Do our hearts harden, or does knowledge of ten thousand secrets, afflictions, charities and cruelties of humanity, only fit one to pass judgment soberly and without prejudice or rapture? In a word, is there any utility to the city force in joy and sorrow, except the "items" they yield?

A scrap of paper, a single remark has many times furnished a valuable clue—that if this man had the key to the mystery—it's worth trying for. At the nearest telephone the city editor was informed of what had occurred and the eagerness of his tones showed that he was deeply interested. "Follow your men; use your discretion in details and make expense a minor consideration," was his final instruction. The reporter, satisfied that he had not been observed, took his position in a stairway across the street from the place of retreat of the object of his search.

It was dark and great snowflakes, that turned to water as they struck the pavement, were falling. It was an hour before the man roiled out of the dive and staggered westward, the reporter following and keeping him in sight. Over the old river bridge, through dark streets, far out to the suburbs, went the drunken man, with the reporter close behind. At last he staggered up to a house that appeared to be on a knoll. It loomed up like a specter through the falling snow, and, to all outward appearance, was uninhabited. The half-beat man leaned heavily against the building and kicked the door vigorously. As it did not open, the man kicked the door again and again, and the din by pounding with his fists and uttering oaths.

"DO YOU MAKE THE PAPER?" This was the trend of reflections interrupted by an arrival. "Do you make the paper?" "Well, perhaps, part of it." "Can a man see you?" "I guess so."

The voice had come from a grit-encircled mouth that belonged to a nobody solicited patronage at the foot of the stairs and was available when anybody wanted to send a message to the apartments above. Pretty soon reappeared, conducting a stranger. Their approach was heralded by the thumping of a cane, upon which, evidently, the stranger was leaning heavily. His appearance was singular in that he was one of that small class of men who are able to enlist your eager attention, even before you hear their cause. He was, perhaps, sixty years old; worn by exposure and perhaps suffering, but not worn out.

"My name," he said, "is Silas Enfield. If you are the city editor perhaps you will remember a note addressed by me to you."

The city editor recalled having received that day the following: "If you have time and disposition to hear an old man's story send a reporter to—'No. 100' street."

Requests for reporters are frequent and are often on trivial grounds, the public seeming to think that everything offered is to be eagerly accepted, as if there ever was a paucity of talent. Something like this was about to be said when the old man continued: "I confess to being eager to have your help, and I couldn't wait for your reporter. Now, if you will listen to me, you can soon tell whether you can spare the time to bother with my case."

Silas Enfield had walked to a chair as he talked, and having made his preface brief continued without ceremony or loss of time. "I am an Englishman and a sailor, though I haven't been on the seas for many years. Twenty years ago the English government was sending expeditions to South Africa and South America to stimulate commerce and extend her influence. I was an officer of small rank in the navy, and had only been three months married when I was assigned to one of these expeditions. I have no long yarn to spin now, for I want to trouble you only with the facts necessary to explain my mission. As details and proofs I have papers in my pocket to satisfy all inquirers. It is enough now that you should know that I was away from home, and in remote parts much longer than we could help, and during all that time I neither heard from my wife nor it seems, succeeded in getting a letter to her."

"When I returned at last, one of only a few of our crew, for one ship had been in and all on board, it had been reported, with her, I could find no trace of my wife except this: Six months after I sailed, and when the reported loss of our vessel was confirmed, she had started to America to live with a brother. For a few months letters had been received by an aunt, directing if I turned up alive that I be notified of my wife's whereabouts. That, anxious, I remained. That is the one thing I have to do in this world. A father's love always seemed to me to be more or less pathetic, but you are looking at a man who has loved for more than twenty years a child

he has never seen. If you pity me, help me to find my loved ones—even if dead."

There was a moving appeal for help. With so slight a clue—or rather no clue except the absolute absence of all trace of identity, there was little prospect of success in the search for the old man's child, but the search itself would afford a good story. Help was promised, and four reporters were assigned to look into the case on separate lines of investigation, and to report their experiences.

W. H. Blodgett

II. The Police Reporter's Adventure.

The police reporter and the old man parted on the street corner, and as Mr. Enfield walked away the reporter caught a glance of an ill-visaged fellow in a crowd of idlers who seemed to be watching intently the reporter's late companion, who had apparently followed him to the newspaper office and awaited his reappearance. He was a stocky-built fellow, with a week's beard on his face, a slouch hat pulled down over his head and ears, a handkerchief of the cheapest kind knotted about his neck. His short, rough coat was buttoned tight about him, and on his feet he wore heavy brogans. Blushing up to the reporter he said, with a grin that displayed white, rat-like teeth:

"Lad, who is the cove as you was talkin' to? He thinks he knows 'im. 'E's a Hinchinbrook chap, and maybe he's the sailor boy he wants to see."

"He was a sailor, and he, too, is looking for somebody. I can tell you all about him."

"I offer a reward?"

"I don't know; but I do for correct information."

This queer British tough either knew something or was trying to find out all about Silas Enfield with a view to making capital of his knowledge. Each suspicious of the other, the two parted, reserving much that each knew, and agreeing to meet on the morrow. The reporter watched the man until he had entered a saloon.

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door opened wider until sufficient to admit the reporter, and he stepped in, shaking the wet snow from his overcoat as he did so. Without a word the old woman, bent and withered, with wrinkled face and straggling hair, a Mrs. Merrill, took a seat in front of a blazing grate. The reporter removed his overcoat, pulled up a chair, and as he warmed his hands, took swift in the apartments were astounding in their furnishings.

On a plain deal table were some costly china dishes; valuable rugs were spread upon the floor; on the old-fashioned bed were piled several bolts of costly lace curtains hung at the shattered windows; damask portiers divided the room into two apartments. On a pile of blankets in one corner, the man the reporter had followed home was lying face downward in drunken slumber. A soft opal-colored light from a piano lamp brightened the room.

"Disagreeable outside," remarked the reporter, making an effort to be friendly. The old woman made no reply, and all attempts to draw her into conversation were a failure. She rocked on an ottoman and gazed steadily into the fire. When the reporter displayed some silver and hinted that it would not hurt her feelings to be supplied with food, the crone glared furiously at the sleeping man and muttered: "There's no place for such as you. You'd better travel before Jen wakes up."

At that moment a low whistle sounded outside. The beldam tottered to the door and admitted a young man about twenty-five years of age; a handsome fellow, built like an athlete. Apparently he had not noticed the reporter's presence, for, throwing a sack he carried on the floor, he exclaimed: "There's some Christmas presents for the children, old woman. I have a lively race, but I got away all right. There's swag enough there, old woman—'Ha-ha-ha!' kissed the crone, pointing to the reporter. At the sound the young man turned. Doubtless this was the young fellow who was to be palmed off as Enfield's son—the reporter vaguely reasoned.

"Oh, could it be possible that there was an existing similarity between the life of this young man and the unknown son of old man Enfield, and in a den of thieves?"

The young man advanced. "What are you doing here?" he angrily demanded.

"I lost my way, and—"

"I think you are a spy. Jen, oh, Jen!"

The drunkard started up and stared at the intruder.

"Ha!" he exclaimed. "You are the one I remember inviting you to-night. You need a lesson in manners when you come to see gentlemen!" The thieves clearly imagined the reporter an officer, and were in an ugly humor about it.

"I am not a spy, and I have no intention of betraying you. Open that door and I will go."

"Oh, no. It's very impolite to go suddenly like that."

"I am out of curiosity and without an invitation, and as my curiosity is fully satisfied, I am disposed to go without ceremony." And the reporter discreetly started for the door. His flight made him receive a lesson in manners when he was in the front of the exit. There was a scuffle and a display of weapons, and the reporter was in a fair way to lose life as well as limb, when a door opened and a man came out, a crash, and the door burst open.

"Just in time, old boy!" exclaimed the voice of a fellow-reporter, leading in some very welcome bluecoats.

W. H. Blodgett

III. The Youthful Reporter Shows "Snap."

The youthful reporter was in a gloomy mood. The prospect of approaching Christmas did not cheer him. He was retrospectively glancing over his experience as a reporter, and it was not an experience full of triumphs.

The young man, he it known, was in his first year of newspaper work—and the work had been disillusioning. He had taken up the business of a reporter with a general idea of difficulties to be overcome. But difficulties in the grand, well-rounded abstract are never so powerful as in the petty, irritating, unattractive reality.

His first work had not been inspiring. There was not much pride of accomplishment to be extracted from the act of making out lists of births and deaths and transfers of real estate. For some time the items he wrote only occasionally rose to the dignity of a two-line head, and a triple head was a joy that came at epochs few and far between.

He had no special title. He was an odds-and-ends reporter. He finally began to do the markets, a sort of dealing in mysterious symbols, that gave no great satisfaction to the high-sounding name of "Commercial" or "Market Editor," which was urged upon him by his kindly fellow-workers. This dignity he found one that a person might glory in unenvied. He did not cling fondly to the title.

Newspaper work was strangely unlike anything he had guessed from reading the papers. Information unprinted seemed bliny and impalpable, and the information arrayed in formal type. To get it was like grasping at shadows. During a skeptical period the whole newspaper business seemed a deceiving shifting of scenes, varying of green cloth and burning of red fire. For a while it was hard to learn that it is not necessary for a reporter to know more of a subject than he wishes to tell the public. The editor also disagreeably pressed upon him that the reporter need not necessarily be intensely interested in a subject interesting to the public. The rapid changing of interest from one topic to another, which compelled this state of things, was bewildering.

Interviewing was not the easy, sociable sort of thing it had appeared. It was a tedious, slow, and often unfruitful process of friends, full of desirable information and conveniently expressing views on interesting subjects at appropriate time. This was, to a limited extent, true; but it

had not occurred to the youthful reporter that interviewing was methodical, that persons were sought out with reference to their knowledge of a public theme or that they were often found, incompactly with interesting and entertaining and irritating scraps against being interviewed just when it was necessary to rush off and write their opinions before going to press in twenty minutes.

He was the odds-and-ends reporter—the remnant reporter. He had a fragmentary knowledge of many fields. He was kept on the lookout for anything that might be of use in the courts, station house or other routine "run" that must be "covered" when the regular reporter of that run was busy.

Scarcely while hanging in these unpromising waters there was a sudden and thrilling nibble, and the youthful reporter, after some agitation, was gratified by landing a really good item, a rare one with a "scent" about it. But often these scraps were sadly abbreviated for the cautious city editor passed the tackle to more experienced hands, and the youthful reporter was reduced to the somewhat humiliating position of merely watching for bites on other men's lines.

The young man might have thought of many really pleasant things that had come into his experience despite the dispelling of illusions, but he was in a gloomy mood late that evening after the old Englishman had called and gone.

He was alone in the office. All had gone home for the night, and the janitor was gathering up the scattered exchanges thrown carelessly on the floor. In his odds-and-ends capacity he had been lingering to receive any possible startling news that might come in and make an extra necessary.

While he sat musing, a big blue-coated policeman came in off the stairway.

"Is 'Spotley' in?" he asked, referring familiarly to the police reporter.

"No, he's busy out in the city somewhere."

The policeman seemed to hesitate.

"Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Well, I don't know. I'm sorry 'Spotley's' not in. The fellows have worked up a pretty good case locating an old-time thief, and I wanted him to be along when we took him in."

Here was a ray of hope for the odds-and-ends man. "I don't think it's likely that you can see him again to-night; he's out on a case of his own. See how what's the matter with my going with you?"

The young man was unusually bold. He was often told that a lack of "snap" was what caused the slowness of his progress, and now, in reaction from his despondency, he resolved to show "snap."

"But who's the boy, John?"

"He's our joint Christmas present. He's a wail. On the train from town this morning he was a man who had a card of boys he said he was taking from an orphan asylum in New York to the West, where he hoped to find homes for them. He asked me if I had a boy. I told him no. Then, 'What's your name?' he asked, and your wife, Christmas present. I will give you the smartest boy in the car. Mary, I couldn't refuse; we'll keep him and do right by him."

"What's your name?" asked Mrs. Blackmore, after the family had gathered around the fire-place to open the package from Uncle Henry.

"I haven't got any," said the boy. "At the orphan home they only called me 'Tom-head.'"

"Then we will give you one," said Mr. Blackmore. "We will call you Eugene Blackmore."

And Eugene Blackmore became one of this happy family, which lived far away from the world's sharp battles and bitter jealousies.

As the neighbors became acquainted with Eugene they said he was a "right smart of a boy." He stood at the head of all his classes in the district school, and was envied by many of the boys who would try to wound his feelings by calling him "Stray Gene," and like names. But Eugene was good natured; he never quarreled with his schoolmates, and if he sometimes felt the pricking of the frusts of the big boys, he never mentioned it. He kept right on leading all his classes. When the first spelling-bee was held he became the talk of the whole neighborhood for he "killed down" everybody in the house. The wisecracking body in the house. The wisecracking body in the house. The wisecracking body in the house.

"That orphan of a Gene Blackmore" will make his mark some day. When Eugene reached his tenth year he had read every book in the nearby Blackmore library, which included Robinson Crusoe, the Arabian Nights, several of Oliver Optic's books, the Pilgrim's Progress, and an old book which Eugene had drifted into strange company. After the story book had been read and re-read, Eugene would study the old rhetoric by the hour. He became acquainted with the figures of speech, and during the long winter evenings he would amuse himself looking over the pages of the books on the shelf for similes, allegories, metaphors, etc.

The arrest was not undertaken until late in the evening, when a group of policemen and the reporter stood conferring together in the smoky room across the river, being cautiously advancing and stating themselves about the house known to be the home of a desperate thief and murderer.

He stilled even his internal voice when a footstep was heard and a young man was defined in the lighted doorway as he entered the house.

Shortly after there came sounds of a struggle and the reporter rushed impetuously into the house, actually at the head of the detail of policemen. There was some minor glancing of the drunken man was thrown to the floor, while the young man and an old woman were seized. A man was taken to the Blackmore library, which included Robinson Crusoe, the Arabian Nights, several of Oliver Optic's books, the Pilgrim's Progress, and an old book which Eugene had drifted into strange company. After the story book had been read and re-read, Eugene would study the old rhetoric by the hour. He became acquainted with the figures of speech, and during the long winter evenings he would amuse himself looking over the pages of the books on the shelf for similes, allegories, metaphors, etc.

And thus Eugene's quiet life ran on. He entered all the common school branches and the Blackmore library, which included Robinson Crusoe, the Arabian Nights, several of Oliver Optic's books, the Pilgrim's Progress, and an old book which Eugene had drifted into strange company. After the story book had been read and re-read, Eugene would study the old rhetoric by the hour. He became acquainted with the figures of speech, and during the long winter evenings he would amuse himself looking over the pages of the books on the shelf for similes, allegories, metaphors, etc.

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CURES SURELY.

BRUISES.

Ohio & Miss. Railway.

Cures Bruises, Swellings, Sprains, Rheumatism, etc.

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THE MERCANTILE WORLD

A QUIET PLACE TODAY

WITH TRADE SUSPENDED.

The Greatest of Holidays—Something

of Shoes and Leather—Fre-

quent Changes in the

Style of Lasts.

Indianapolis Wholesale Market.

Trade everywhere is suspended to-day,

the holiday of holidays. Exchanges are

closed, and merchants have turned from the

noise of commerce to the quiet pleasures of

home. Yesterday's prices nominally hold

over for to-day.

For the next two months, says the Boston

Commercial Bulletin, shoe salesmen return-

ing to Boston after having visited every

State, Territory, town and village in the

country, will tell their employers all about

the shoes which will be in demand in the

spring and summer of 1891. Consultations

between the men who make shoes and the

men who sell them will be frequent and the

result of those conferences will have im-

portant bearing upon the patronage which

each manufacturer will receive. In every

instance the main theme of this interchange

of opinion will be last. Styles in last

change frequently. One firm of last

manufacturers in Brooklyn has within

a few years made seven thousand

pairs of models. In 1887 this firm produced

23,000 pairs of lasts. This year their out-

put will be over 80,000 pairs. The rivalry

among manufacturers to procure the

"latest thing in lasts" is fully as keen as is

the rivalry to secure customers for shoes.

The advance in the manufacture of lasts

since 1880 has been a remarkable feature

of the shoe-making industry. The brogan

last had a high top with a thick sole. The

first step in the march of improvement was

to make the last thinner through the sides

and the section known as the "hold-back

part." The conformation of the last used

in 1880 was such that the leather in the

sole was loose at the sides of the

last. To-day the leather fits closely

to the last. Since 1880 a new

method of measurement has been

adopted. Before this method was

effective, the last was one-quarter of an

inch (one size) larger on the instep than at

present. By reducing the instep measure

and keeping the ball measure full, the fit is

greatly improved. Formerly the last of

permanence and maple was air-dried. Now

it is both iron and air-dried. Ten years ago

we had no opera toes. To be sure there was

something of a toe in the shoe, but it was

having to do with the shoe, with much more

"spring" but from that the famous opera

toe was evolved. The New Orleans

the Waukegan and the Pleadly

have of late years been pronounced

favorites. At the present time the Pleadly is

in greatest demand. The standard lasts, how-

ever, are the London and French toes. The last

made in 1880 was of 8 1/2 model and all

the grading of which was more or less im-

perfect. Now models are made for the

different widths. This affords much better

results, retaining the shape and securing

the desired proportions in all parts of the

last. Suppose an 8 1/2 last had a 1 1/2 inch

spring; by turning from one model the

spring would lessen in the narrow widths

and increase in the wide widths. The

wider widths would become more

stocky and bungling. To-day, by getting

the right proportions, the last-maker has a

new starting point; and it is to this ad-

vance more than to any other individual

feature that the superior fit of shoes is now

obtained.

How does this year compare with 1889

in the matter of failures in the shoe and

leather trade? This question was on

Thursday, submitted to the highest New

England authority on credits. The re-

sponse was in these words: "Up to the

present time there have been no more fail-

ures in 1890 than for the corresponding

period of 1889. To be a little more ac-

curate, the comparison is in favor of the

current year. In 1889 there were many small

failures. This year the average per assignment

has been larger. The preference of the New

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ANNULATING DISTANCE

AN AUDIENCE AND THE PERFORMANCE 300 MILES APART.

More Wonders of the Telephone—Sweet Music Sent by Wire—Stories of Its Value in Saving Time and Money.

[New York special Philadelphia Press.]

On the evening of Thanksgiving there were gathered in a public hall in Newton, Mass., about one thousand persons who sat for two hours, giving every evidence of being delightedly entertained, although nothing was visible on the stage before them, excepting a great apparatus which looked like a mammoth funnel, big at one end and little at the other. At the same time there was collected in a room in a building on Cortlandt street, in New York city, an orchestra of a dozen pieces, an electrician and a female vocalist of sweet but not powerful voice.

There was more than two hundred miles distant from the little room in the Cortlandt-street building in New York, yet space had been completely annihilated and the audience in the Newton hall listened to an orchestral concert, to recitations and to singing which was taking place in the Cortlandt-street building, just as distinctly as though the performance were upon the stage before them. The apparatus which the Newton audience bestowed upon different parts of the program was as distinctly heard by the performers as though they were present before this audience. It was a concert lasting for two hours, and was one of the finest demonstrations of this latter-day development of the telephone which has yet been recorded.

On the following Sunday night there gathered in the house of one of the chief electricians of this city a small company of his friends who had been invited to dine with him and to hear at the same time the Thomas concert, which was to take place in the Lenox Lyceum. The electrician's house is situated in a town in New Jersey, nearly fifty miles from the Lenox Lyceum. The guests had hardly finished their dinners when the preliminary cry of "please place in the orchestra" was heard in the room. The tuning of the violins, flutes, and other instruments was as clearly heard as though the guests were seated at a table in the restaurant of the Lenox Lyceum. The guests were free from the constraint which they would have labored under had they been seated in the Lenox Lyceum, and they enjoyed the music at the same time.

Thus, within two years of the time when Bell's book was first published, has been realized, literally, what was then thought to be a trifling expense of the possibilities of his dream. So successful have been these experiments that they are no longer regarded as problematic, but as absolutely demonstrated. The other day the electrician, who made the simple, yet marvelous experiments, touched a wire, and then handed me the receiving end of a telephone, requesting me to apply it to my ear. The instant I did so I heard conversation as distinctly as though the speaker at my side were speaking to me, and also the clicking of a typewriter. Yet this typewriter was being worked by an operator in a Philadelphia afternoon newspaper office, and was recording for the printer's message delivered by telephone from a New York newspaper office. The click of the keys was as distinct as though the operator was at my side, yet it was more than ninety miles away.

One day in the early part of this week a company of four men sat in the directors' room of a great corporation in this city. The president of the corporation and his associates composed this group. But this was only half of the story. On a table in front of the president sat a telephone receiver, and before his lips and ears were a wire transmitter, which connected him with the members of the board who were before him to order, and then repeated the formality through the telephone. He then called the roll. The gentlemen who were present responded, and those who were not visible to the eye also responded, and the board was then told the meeting was organized. The other members of the board were in a room in Boston, and the secretary was in New York. By means of the telephone the business of the meeting was transacted with perfect ease, and was finished within an hour. Legal authority had declared that such a meeting and voting in this way was void, as much as if all the directors had been gathered into one room. The conversation, the motions, and the votes were distinguished by every member of the board, and thus the business was transacted without inconvenience the affairs of a great corporation were managed.

For the use of the instruments for this hour the directors were charged \$24, and \$24 an hour seems like a handsome rate to be earned by the use of the instruments, of any corporation. But the directors paid the bill cheerfully, because they did not for this convenience think of the fact that the instruments were sent from New York or Boston, losing one day from their business, besides the expense of travel and hotel accommodations. This corporation makes really use of the telephone for an hour, and has thus annihilated space and done away with inconvenience.

These few examples of recent marvels in telephoning indicate the prodigious strides which have been made in this wonderful science. But there are other things to be said which have not yet been told. In the first place, the use of the telephone box and of house to house communication is rapidly passing away. It is rapidly passing away within the next five years telephoning, as first developed by Bell, will be practically a thing of the past. The discoveries of the wire of electricity, the application of the telephone which have been made within the past five years, are many and marvelous. They are such as compel the substitution of a newer system for the old one. This is the case with the telephone, and with the stage coach as one of the wheels caused by progress. The story of this development is of the utmost interest. It is a story which has been written in the "cross talk," which made it possible for any Paul Pry, with his ear at the receiver, to hear all that was going on, and therefore making privacy something which was not a thing of the past. The other defects which made frequently the transmission of messages a nuisance trying to the nerves and provocative of anger. Besides that, the old form of telephone was available for comparatively short distances only. It could be used in a town, but not very successfully in communicating between one town and another. Moreover, the greater portion of the patrons were persons who could not afford to pay more than moderate prices for the use of the instrument.

The investigators soon found that the trouble with the old form of telephone was due to two facts; one, that the earth was used to complete the circuit, thus making induction, which produces all the confusing noises, certain to follow; and the other was that the wires, which were the ordinary wires, used by telegraph companies, were utterly unfit for the transmission of verbal messages. The tedious and persevering investigators, chief among whom was Mr. John A. Gray, a Cambridge boy, who arrived from the doors of Harvard College to investigate this new science, soon made a discovery.

They found that the electricians were all wrong in supposing that copper wire and iron wire offered the same resistance. They did seem to do so, and this was supposed to be one of the laws of the science, but investigation showed that under certain conditions copper wire was infinitely superior

to iron wire, and would sustain a far stronger battery than the old form of iron wire was able to do. If a battery such as is now used on long-distance wires was applied to the old form of wire a listener could have heard the words of the speaker, but the speaker's assistants were all at the telephone. It was also found that the copper wires must make a complete circuit; that is, that the earth be discarded, and what is called the metallic circuit, be completely closed. In other words, the wires connected with the transmitter should be continued until it ends in the receiver before the person who wishes to use—no matter if that continuance took the wire 400 miles to be sure. It was also discovered that the wires should be insulated or twisted in a certain peculiar and mathematically accurate way, and that they should also be adjusted on the poles with a certain rhythmic motion. These discoveries were made at different times, but combined they gave the investigators the clue to the perfect telephone. It was shown that with such combinations as these with a perfect battery the vibrations ceased, absolute secrecy was secured, excepting, of course, at the central office, and that the human voice or other sounds could be transmitted with perfect distinctness for great distances.

Here, then, was the solution of the problem of the science, and only one question remained, and that was whether the invention that was not yet a practical one, was prohibitive as a commercial venture. There was only one way to determine this question, and that was by experiment, and the sort of experiment that costs a great deal of money. It would be necessary to build a line running for a great distance, and to demonstrate to the business community that it was available. Then business men would be able to determine whether they could afford to pay the price asked, and that was a question which their own experience would solve for them. If they found they could pay the high price and yet use the instrument to advantage they would be likely to do so. Capitalists, therefore, put their money into an experiment, and a great sum of money was needed. They decided to build such a line between New York and Boston, and to build it in the most perfect manner. That was some five years ago. The wires were put up, the service was perfect, but the cost seemed to be prohibitive. Then the business men of New York, Philadelphia and Philadelphia, the capitalists standing by their guns with a confidence which was, in view of all the circumstances, remarkable. Millions were expended, until now the line had reached a point near \$5,000,000. The line had been erected, and made it possible for a merchant in Philadelphia to sit at his desk and communicate with all the great cities east of the Rocky Mountains, and as easily as though persons who live in those cities were in his visible presence. The public, however, approached the new development with some timidity. The price seemed to be too high. But it was, for instance, to use the wires between New York and Buffalo for five minutes; but the managers believed that business development would be such that merchants would be able to pay the expense, say, \$5, or a dollar a minute, for such use.

Lately this judgment seems to have been verified. The wires at times are hot with business, and between New York, Philadelphia and Boston, at least, the service must be increased. The lesson which has been taught by the experience is this: That as a commercial venture the telephone must be used in a way that will make it profitable. It is not a thing of the past, but a thing of the future. The lesson which has been taught by the experience is this: That as a commercial venture the telephone must be used in a way that will make it profitable. It is not a thing of the past, but a thing of the future.

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For the use of the instruments for this hour the directors were charged \$24, and \$24 an hour seems like a handsome rate to be earned by the use of the instruments, of any corporation. But the directors paid the bill cheerfully, because they did not for this convenience think of the fact that the instruments were sent from New York or Boston, losing one day from their business, besides the expense of travel and hotel accommodations. This corporation makes really use of the telephone for an hour, and has thus annihilated space and done away with inconvenience.

These few examples of recent marvels in telephoning indicate the prodigious strides which have been made in this wonderful science. But there are other things to be said which have not yet been told. In the first place, the use of the telephone box and of house to house communication is rapidly passing away. It is rapidly passing away within the next five years telephoning, as first developed by Bell, will be practically a thing of the past. The discoveries of the wire of electricity, the application of the telephone which have been made within the past five years, are many and marvelous. They are such as compel the substitution of a newer system for the old one. This is the case with the telephone, and with the stage coach as one of the wheels caused by progress. The story of this development is of the utmost interest. It is a story which has been written in the "cross talk," which made it possible for any Paul Pry, with his ear at the receiver, to hear all that was going on, and therefore making privacy something which was not a thing of the past. The other defects which made frequently the transmission of messages a nuisance trying to the nerves and provocative of anger. Besides that, the old form of telephone was available for comparatively short distances only. It could be used in a town, but not very successfully in communicating between one town and another. Moreover, the greater portion of the patrons were persons who could not afford to pay more than moderate prices for the use of the instrument.

The investigators soon found that the trouble with the old form of telephone was due to two facts; one, that the earth was used to complete the circuit, thus making induction, which produces all the confusing noises, certain to follow; and the other was that the wires, which were the ordinary wires, used by telegraph companies, were utterly unfit for the transmission of verbal messages. The tedious and persevering investigators, chief among whom was Mr. John A. Gray, a Cambridge boy, who arrived from the doors of Harvard College to investigate this new science, soon made a discovery.

They found that the electricians were all wrong in supposing that copper wire and iron wire offered the same resistance. They did seem to do so, and this was supposed to be one of the laws of the science, but investigation showed that under certain conditions copper wire was infinitely superior

to iron wire, and would sustain a far stronger battery than the old form of iron wire was able to do. If a battery such as is now used on long-distance wires was applied to the old form of wire a listener could have heard the words of the speaker, but the speaker's assistants were all at the telephone. It was also found that the copper wires must make a complete circuit; that is, that the earth be discarded, and what is called the metallic circuit, be completely closed. In other words, the wires connected with the transmitter should be continued until it ends in the receiver before the person who wishes to use—no matter if that continuance took the wire 400 miles to be sure. It was also discovered that the wires should be insulated or twisted in a certain peculiar and mathematically accurate way, and that they should also be adjusted on the poles with a certain rhythmic motion. These discoveries were made at different times, but combined they gave the investigators the clue to the perfect telephone. It was shown that with such combinations as these with a perfect battery the vibrations ceased, absolute secrecy was secured, excepting, of course, at the central office, and that the human voice or other sounds could be transmitted with perfect distinctness for great distances.

RESCUED FROM THE SIOUX

A PARTY OF INDIANS ATTACK A FRONTIER HOME.

They Carry Off a Woman and Boy as Captives, But Friends of the Latter, After a Long Pursuit, Liberate Them.

[New York Sun.]

On the third day of May, 1897, a pioneer on the Solomon river, Kansas, heard the reports of rifles to the west of him just as he had finished breakfast. His name was Cherry, and his family consisted of a wife and two boys. Only one of the boys was at home at the time. He was a lad of twelve named John. The Indians had been seen riding along the river, but of a sudden they halted, held a council, and both rode and walked toward the house. Cherry and his family were in a great panic. They could not have seen their trail, nor had they reason to suspect their presence, and I never could fathom their action. They were caught by surprise. The wife and the two boys were in a great panic. They could not have seen their trail, nor had they reason to suspect their presence, and I never could fathom their action. They were caught by surprise.

The reports of the rifles warned Mrs. Cherry of what was likely to happen. She had taken her rifle, while she had a shotgun and Johnnie had a single-barreled pistol. They did not have long to wait. A band of nine warriors came toward the house, and within ten feet of the door the leader called to the occupants of the house:

"If you try to open the door!"

The Indians laughed in derision, and four or five stepped forward to burst in the door. Mrs. Cherry, however, was not to be so easily taken. She had taken her rifle, while she had a shotgun and Johnnie had a single-barreled pistol. They did not have long to wait. A band of nine warriors came toward the house, and within ten feet of the door the leader called to the occupants of the house:

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chances. We had advanced about five miles during the night. The house, as I had said, was in a trap. About 9 in the morning, as I was on watch, I espied a couple of Indians to the east. They had been sent from some distance to the west of the village. They were riding at a gallop when I first saw them, but of a sudden they halted, held a council, and both rode and walked toward the house. Cherry and his family were in a great panic. They could not have seen their trail, nor had they reason to suspect their presence, and I never could fathom their action. They were caught by surprise. The wife and the two boys were in a great panic. They could not have seen their trail, nor had they reason to suspect their presence, and I never could fathom their action. They were caught by surprise.

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GLIMPSES OF STAGELAND.

"Blue Jeans" is plainly a fixture at the Fourteenth-street Theater, New York.

It now costs every theatrical company on the coast from \$150 to \$200 per week for printing alone.

A Spanish dancer, "Cyrene," has made an emphatic hit in Chicago. She is from the American variety stage.

Sol Smith Russell has declined an offer of a large sum of money to appear in London next season in "A Poor Relation."

Mrs. Leslie Carter, who made her debut as a star in New York recently, has just won a distinct success in Boston.

Joseph Jefferson and W. J. Florence are to dedicate McVicker's new theater in Chicago when it is reopened in March.

Billwauke's new mayor is going to stop the billing of lewd show paper. Our police once stopped it here, but of late do nothing.

Stuart Robson is playing his second week at the Casino, New York. Miss Lillian Russell made the hit of her musical career in "The Girl of the Year."

The success of Mr. E. S. Willard, the Englishman who is playing in Philadelphia, is genuine, though it is unattended by any effusive demonstrations.

Lillian Russell accepts the terms for next season offered her by F. H. French, her salary will equal that paid to the President of the United States.

"Falstaff" is the title of a new comic opera upon the composition of which Verdi has just engaged. The great musician is in his eighty-seventh year.

"Cleopatra" is a failure in Paris, and its collapse is supposed to signify the doom of spectacle plays with lone-star casts. Sara Bernhardt is going to try a revival of the everlasting "Camille."

The "Clemenceau Case" is now in its second week in Chicago. The great personal charms of Miss Estelle Clayton, who plays him, attract large audiences. The piece is elaborately staged and smoothly acted.

The separation of Robson and Crane proved decidedly beneficial to both parties concerned, but particularly to the former. In all the time of his association with W. H. Crane, Mr. Robson has never had such a successful season.

It may be presumed that Mr. W. H. Crane has made up his mind to play Falstaff. He has not yet decided, as it is announced that his manager is in London, but he is expected to appear in the production of Shakespeare's "Henry IV" in January, 1892.

Now that Neil Burgess, the actor, has made a fortune of over \$100,000 out of his play, in which the feature was an imitation of a horse race, accomplished by live horses racing upon a treadmill upon the stage, the courts have granted him exclusive rights in this curious development of modern drama.

It is now reported that Joseph Arthur is anxious to build a theater in New York. I fail to see any news in this. Probably innumerable men connected with the theatrical business are anxious to build theaters in New York without the slightest possibility of their anxiety being appeased.—[New York Sunday Dispatch.]

Mrs. Agnes Robertson Bonicelli will sell on the Majestic this week with her daughter, Nina, and will be waiting for arrival in London a new play, written expressly for her by her handsome son Aubrey, and intended to be the vehicle, it is said, for the instantaneous recognition on the boards of the famous Agnes Robertson, as well as her two gifted children.

The complaints of disastrous business at the theaters are loud and deep, but it is worth noting that anything novel in the way of amusement must be applied to support from the public. Perhaps the present period of gloom in theatricals may have a reason for its existence after all. The public is so utterly indifferent to the plays now on the boards.—[New York Sun.]

Their (Jefferson and Florence) record upon the stage is a high one. No scandals have ever obscured their careers. They have used no cheap devices to advertise themselves to the public. They have robbed no one, and have had to destroy no rivals as they advanced. Their success has been one of pure merit, correct and kindly, and their private lives have been modestly and have worn the laurel leaves of their prosperity.—[New York Tribune.]

Modjeska has been publishing a narrative of her dramatic experiences in America, and describes New York as a cosmopolitan city more interesting to the foreigner than America. She criticizes the people as being in too much of a hurry to enjoy life. In the last performances of Madame Modjeska in New York, the people did not appear to be in too much of a hurry to enjoy her performances. Possibly, however, they may not have considered that as a means of enjoying life.

One of W. J. Scanton's new songs, which he has written in "Myself Alone," become as popular as his famous "Peek-a-Boo." He introduces it in the first act of his play. The scene represents the interior of a conservatory filled with tropical plants. A swing decorated with many small lights is suspended from the ceiling. Into this Mr. Scanton places a beautiful little girl eight years of age, and while swinging she sings the song, ending with the words, "See, there she goes."

Dan Frohman's "Charity Ball" company, of which Miss Ruth Carpenter, of this city, plays the leading female part, is in Pittsburgh this week in the course of a most successful tour. Miss Carpenter's company is giving glowing notices from the press, not only for her personal appearance, in which she is already ranked among the beautiful women on the stage, but for the excellence of her acting, which has been a hit in every town in this play, is of the emotional order, and which she carries with great delicacy and force.

One of the presents at the marriage of Edith Barrett and Marshall Williams, at New York, recently was a check for \$4999 from Stuart Robson, and thereby hangs a tale of interest to many people in and out of the theater. Miss Barrett is the daughter of Mr. Williams, who was a runaway horse at Cohasset. An invitation to dinner followed, when he met Miss Barrett. Mr. Robson, who was also in the neighborhood, and who saw the growing fancy of the couple for each other, said to Williams, who, being "only a clerk," was timid about making known the state of his affairs: "Marshall, go in and win her, and I'll make you a wedding present of \$5,000, and here's a dollar on account."

Robert G. Ingersoll, on behalf of Julia Marlowe, has notified the latter's financial backer, B. J. Zalk, of New York, that the contract heretofore between the latter and the actress is terminated. Miss Marlowe, through Colonel Ingersoll, charges that the company organized by Mr. Falk was incompetent, and that surrounded by such support it was impossible for her to succeed in properly presenting her personations. The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Press says that Miss Marlowe's mortal illness was caused by lack of sufficient rest for which her manager was responsible, coupled with business troubles. Miss Marlowe's attorney states that when compelled by physical suffering to leave her work, she was left without means to obtain food, shelter or medicine, and that while in this condition she was deserted by her manager. Mr. Lawrence Barrett will probably be Miss Marlowe's manager next year.

The Great Chain at West Point. (Popular Science Monthly for January.)

One of the most notable events connected with the manufacture of iron during these years was the making of the great iron chain which in 1778 was stretched across the Hudson river at West Point to prevent the passage of British vessels. In his Field Book of the Revolution, gives a very interesting account of this work, of which we can quote only the leading facts: The iron of which this chain was constructed was wrought from iron ore in the Sterling and Long mines in Orange county. The chain was manufactured by Peter Townsend, of Chester, at the Sterling iron-works in the same county, which were situated about twenty-five miles back of West Point. The chain was completed about the middle of April, 1778, and on the 1st of May it was stretched across the river and secured.

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